

U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Nationwide Ebola Virus Disease Information Campaign

September 11, 2014

This is an update to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Security Message released on July 15, 2014. According to the Government of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health and Sanitation, as of September 9, there are 1,341 confirmed cases of EVD in Sierra Leone, with 436 fatalities. There are 284 survivors. The confirmed cases are in Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Kambia, Bombali, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Pujehun, Bo, Moyamba, and Bonthe districts and the Western Area Urban and Rural.

The Government of Sierra Leone has announced plans to conduct a three-day door-to-door nationwide public awareness campaign from Friday September 19 to Sunday September 21. The goal of this "House to House Ebola Talk" is to educate people about EVD and identify cases. As such, all individuals in Sierra Leone are being asked to remain in their residence during this three day period so they may be reached by the volunteer teams. Similar house-to-house dialogues have been held in Sierra Leone regarding immunization, bed nets, and birth registration. This is not a nation-wide quarantine or lockdown. U.S. citizens are encouraged to prepare for three days without access to local businesses and government services, and to follow local news for additional information about the campaign. In cooperation with local authorities, the U.S. Embassy will be closed on Friday September 19 and will re-open Monday, September 22 as regularly scheduled. The U.S. Embassy in Freetown remains fully operational.

Contracting EVD can be avoided through practicing good preventative measures. The virus is easily killed by contact with soap, bleach, sunlight, or drying. You will not contract EVD if you avoid contact with the body fluids of someone who is ill with EVD or the corpse of someone who has died of EVD. Also avoid bat and primate (bush) meat as it can transmit EVD to humans.

For more information:

- Review the [Travel Warning](#) for Sierra Leone issued on August 14, 2014.
- Review the [Travel Alert](#) regarding potential implications for travel because of Ebola in West Africa issued on September 3, 2014.
- Continue to visit the [U.S. Embassy Freetown](#) website and Facebook page for regular updates.
- Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website and review the CDC [Level 3 Travel Warning](#) for Sierra Leone.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Sierra Leone enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with nearest U.S. embassy.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions by visiting the [U.S. Embassy Freetown website](#). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Embassy in Freetown is located at Leicester Square, Regent. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email to consularfreetown@state.gov or calling 232(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000. For after-hours emergencies, please call Tel: 232-(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000.